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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR

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BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

October 1988

The Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

Governor McKernan cites regional opportunities and challenges

Building regional strength to address regional issues was the subject of Governor John R. McKernan's remarks on the third and final day of the Fifth Annual New England Training and Employment Institute held at the Black Point Inn in Scarborough recently. "We are experiencing as a region some tremendous opportunities and some daunting challenges," said McKernan. "If we work on a regional level to meet some of those challenges, we will have greater success than if we act alone," he said.

As the Governor speaks: foreground, l. to r., Mary Lou Dyer, Exec. Dir., Bureau of Employment Security, Denis Fortier and Susan Brown of MOICC

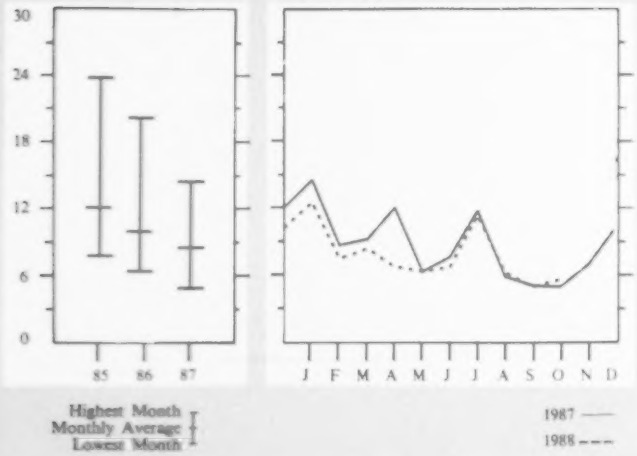
Gov. McKernan speaking at the Black Point Inn

The Governor discussed some of the major challenges facing New England as a region. Citing demographics and a changing economy and the demands they will place on both employers and the workforce, the Governor said, "As our economy continues to shift from a manufacturing to a service base, our old jobs will be replaced by new and different ones, and those jobs will require more skills and higher levels of education." He added, "The year 2000 happens to have arrived 12 years early in New England."

Continued on page 2

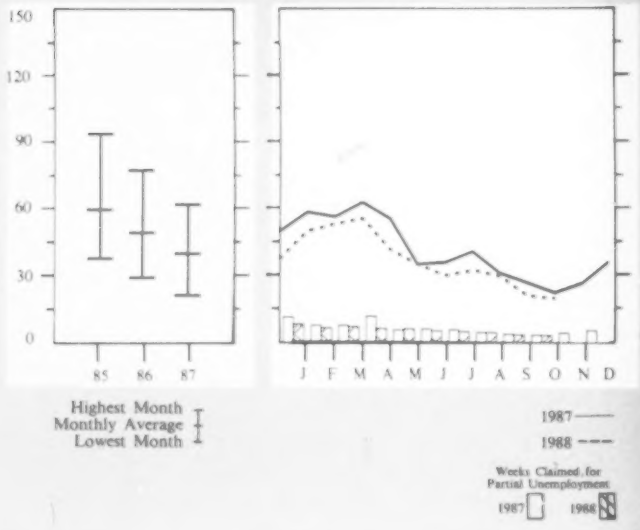
UI Initial Claims

in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed

in Thousands



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The Governor lauded the region for being ahead of the rest of the nation in its commitment to job training and education. "All over New England, the public and private sectors are developing strong and effective responses to the challenges our workers face," he said, listing Connecticut's Job Connections, Rhode Island's Workforce 2000, Massachusetts' Futures Program, and Maine's Health Occupations Training Project as a few examples of innovative new programs that are "giving our people new skills and new dreams."

Governor McKernan also urged participants to take advantage of their congressional delegates. "If we want Congress to take our needs seriously, we need to take advantage of New England's powerful delegation," said the Governor, citing Bill Cohen, George Mitchell, Ted Kennedy, John Chafee, Warren Rudman, Patrick Leahy, and Olympia Snowe as national leaders who can give New England a strong voice in Washington and help the states address some of the challenges New England is facing.

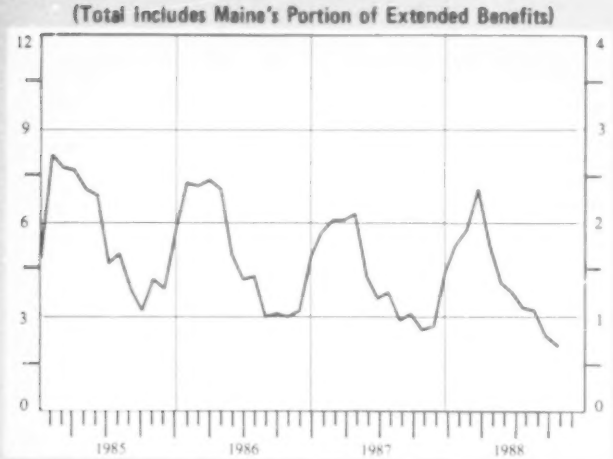
The conference, which was held October 12-14, brought some national leaders to Maine, including Albert Shanker, President of the American Federation of Teachers; Pat Choate, Director of Policy Analysis at TRW; Marion Pines, Senior Fellow at John Hopkins University; and John Elkins, President of the Naisbitt Group. The conference was cosponsored by the Cumberland County Training Resource Center, Region 1 of the National Alliance of Business, the Maine Department of Labor, and Region 1 of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Selected Employment Security Activities

UI Benefit Payments

In Millions

(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance in Millions

(End of Month)

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

in Thousands

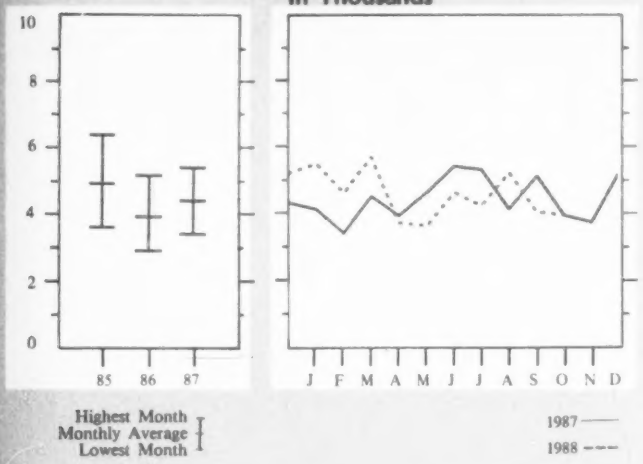
ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	533.0	535.7	514.5	130.8	130.1	127.5	41.6	40.9	40.1
Total Manufacturing	109.2	108.5	105.2	16.9	16.7	16.3	10.3	10.3	10.5
Durable Goods	52.8	52.2	49.1	8.4	8.2	7.8	2.9	2.9	2.8
Lumber and Wood Products	13.8	13.7	14.3	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.4
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.8
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	4.9	4.9	4.5	2.2	2.2	2.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	12.1	12.1	10.7	3.6	3.5	3.3	0.8	0.8	0.7
Transportation Equipment 2/	13.4	13.0	11.1	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other Durable Goods 3	5.0	4.9	5.0	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.5
Nondurable Goods	56.4	56.3	56.1	8.5	8.5	8.5	7.4	7.4	7.7
Food and Kindred Products	7.5	7.6	7.6	1.9	1.9	2.1	0.8	0.9	0.9
Textile Mill Products	6.2	6.1	6.5	(d)	(d)	(d)	1.1	1.1	1.3
Apparel and Other Textile Products	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Paper and Allied Products	17.2	17.1	16.6	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.5	0.5	0.6
Printing and Publishing	5.5	5.5	5.4	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	3.7	3.6	3.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.8	1.7	1.7
Leather and Leather Products	11.9	12.0	12.0	1.4	1.4	1.6	2.3	2.4	2.3
Footwear (except Rubber)	10.0	10.1	10.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.9	1.9	1.9
Other Nondurable Goods 4	1.3	1.3	1.3	3.0	3.0	2.8	0.1	0.0	0.1
Total Nonmanufacturing	423.8	427.2	409.3	113.8	113.4	111.2	31.3	30.6	29.6
Construction and Mining	37.2	37.1	33.1	9.8	9.7	10.0	2.4	2.5	2.4
Building Construction	13.0	13.0	12.6	2.9	2.8	2.9	0.6	0.7	0.6
Special Trades Contractor	17.0	16.9	14.8	5.1	5.2	4.8	1.6	1.7	1.7
Transportation and Public Utilities	21.7	21.9	20.7	5.6	5.8	6.0	1.4	1.5	1.4
Wholesale Trade	25.3	25.0	24.3	10.2	10.2	9.7	2.1	2.1	2.0
Retail Trade	105.9	108.5	103.2	28.8	28.5	27.5	8.5	7.9	7.7
Food Stores	19.5	19.6	19.1	4.6	4.7	4.0	1.4	1.4	1.3
Eating and Drinking Places	33.1	36.4	30.7	8.2	8.7	7.8	2.5	2.4	2.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	25.5	25.4	25.1	12.7	12.8	12.7	2.4	2.5	2.2
Banking	9.1	9.0	8.6	3.3	3.2	2.8	0.9	0.9	0.8
Insurance Carriers, Brokers and Agents	10.0	10.0	10.3	6.2	6.2	5.5	0.7	0.7	0.6
Services	114.3	117.7	110.5	30.5	30.7	29.3	10.4	10.2	10.1
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	9.4	11.7	8.4	1.9	2.4	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.3
Business Services	12.2	12.1	11.9	5.3	5.3	5.0	1.0	1.0	0.9
Health Services	42.3	43.0	41.0	10.4	10.4	10.0	4.2	4.3	4.1
Federal Government	18.6	18.6	18.6	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local Government 5/	75.3	73.0	73.8	14.3	13.7	14.1	3.8	3.6	3.5
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full- and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Transportation equipment and instruments are combined in the Lewiston series. 3/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 25, 32, 37, 38, 39; Lewiston - 25, 32, 39. 4/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 22, 26, 28, 29; Lewiston - 28, 29. 5/ Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. *Less than 50. (d) Nondisclosure item.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

New Applications For Work

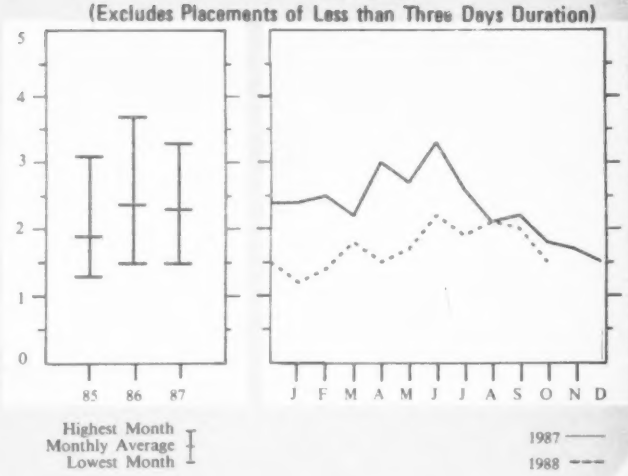
in Thousands



Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1987	1986	1985
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$370.36	$373.73	$369.64	40.3	40.8	42.1	$9.19	$9.16	$8.78	$8.77	$8.65	$8.40
Durable Goods	350.95	353.68	359.02	40.2	40.7	43.1	8.73	8.69	8.33	8.32	8.52	8.46
Lumber and Wood Products	363.60	371.46	344.80	40.4	41.0	43.1	9.00	9.06	8.00	7.82	7.74	8.06
Primary and Fabricated Metals	402.45	397.78	378.71	46.1	46.2	42.6	8.73	8.61	8.89	8.94	8.58	8.25
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	442.04	451.83	432.91	51.7	52.6	46.6	8.55	8.59	9.29	9.20	9.62	9.11
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	307.82	313.77	322.80	35.3	35.9	40.4	8.72	8.74	7.99	8.03	7.94	7.57
Other Durable Goods	336.80	332.24	374.82	39.3	39.6	44.2	8.57	8.39	8.48	8.60	9.41	9.50
Nondurable Goods	389.46	394.01	379.96	40.4	41.0	41.3	9.64	9.61	9.20	9.18	8.76	8.31
Food and Kindred Products	284.53	290.88	278.32	39.3	40.4	39.2	7.24	7.20	7.10	7.16	7.00	6.63
Textile Mill Products	323.95	318.11	305.04	41.8	41.1	41.0	7.75	7.74	7.44	7.35	7.04	6.64
Apparel and Other Textile Products	263.34	266.39	230.62	38.0	39.7	38.5	6.93	6.71	5.99	5.92	5.73	5.83
Paper and Allied Products	626.40	638.37	631.90	45.0	45.5	46.6	13.92	14.03	13.56	13.43	12.70	12.25
Leather and Leather Products	254.98	250.42	240.67	38.0	38.0	37.9	6.71	6.59	6.35	6.34	6.05	5.93
Other Nondurable Goods	314.28	322.13	325.48	36.0	37.5	39.5	8.73	8.59	8.24	8.28	8.00	7.51
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	395.12	399.11	385.56	41.9	42.1	42.0	9.43	9.48	9.18	9.13	9.17	8.90
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	326.27	321.79	296.46	39.5	39.1	39.9	8.26	8.23	7.43	7.40	7.19	6.78

Female Labor Force in Maine

in Thousands

ITEM	This Month 1/	Last Month 1/	Year Ago 2/
Labor Force	268.6	270.2	265.1
Unemployed	7.5	7.0	9.1
(Percent)	2.8%	2.6%	3.4%
Resident Employed	261.1	263.2	256.0

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec.
(1982-1984 = 100) All Items (CPI-U)	120.2	119.8	115.3	115.4

Percent Change for Past Month	+0.3%
Percent Change from Last December	+4.2%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+4.2%

1/ Preliminary estimates 2/ Revised

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

in Thousands

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-Statewide	603.0	604.6	601.5	588.9	591.6	583.6	14.1	13.0	17.9	2.3	2.2	3.0
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	43,600	42,500	44,200	42,600	41,600	42,900	1,000	900	1,300	2.3	2.1	2.9
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	42,200	41,200	41,900	40,900	40,100	40,400	1,300	1,100	1,500	3.1	2.7	3.6
Portland MSA	128,700	127,800	129,100	127,000	126,200	126,700	1,700	1,600	2,400	1.3	1.3	1.9
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA 3/	n/a	137,500	133,700	n/a	135,400	131,600	n/a	2,100	2,100	n/a	1.5	1.6
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	34,270	34,270	33,830	33,580	33,650	32,810	690	620	1,020	2.0	1.8	3.0
Bath-Brunswick	29,750	29,580	28,510	29,350	29,160	27,710	400	420	800	1.3	1.4	2.8
Belfast	11,620	11,760	12,080	11,070	11,190	11,590	550	570	490	4.7	4.8	4.1
Biddeford	27,730	25,640	27,130	27,230	25,200	26,380	500	440	750	1.8	1.7	2.8
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	15,540	16,220	14,940	15,290	16,020	14,680	250	200	260	1.6	1.2	1.7
Calais-Eastport	14,180	14,970	14,080	13,350	14,190	13,120	830	780	960	5.9	5.2	6.8
Caribou-Presque Isle	21,710	23,060	21,710	20,730	22,120	20,400	980	940	1,310	4.5	4.1	6.0
Central Penobscot	2,910	2,750	2,730	2,820	2,690	2,650	90	60	80	3.1	2.2	2.9
Dover-Foxcroft	6,680	6,670	6,820	6,510	6,490	6,570	170	180	250	2.5	2.7	3.7
Ellsworth	23,820	25,200	24,050	23,350	24,770	23,480	470	430	570	2.0	1.7	2.4
Farmington	12,550	12,440	12,400	12,180	12,110	11,850	370	330	550	2.9	2.7	4.4
Fort Kent-Allagash	5,430	5,820	5,590	5,230	5,660	5,360	200	160	230	3.7	2.7	4.1
Greenville	1,490	1,520	1,470	1,460	1,480	1,420	30	40	50	2.0	2.6	3.4
Houlton	5,940	6,370	6,160	5,800	6,240	5,970	140	130	190	2.4	2.0	3.1
Kittery-York 3/	30,780	30,740	29,940	30,560	30,550	29,710	220	190	230	0.7	0.6	0.8
Lincoln-Howland	5,490	5,600	5,430	5,280	5,380	5,250	210	220	180	3.8	3.9	3.3
Livermore Falls	4,310	4,360	4,680	4,180	4,210	4,420	130	150	260	3.0	3.4	5.6
Madawaska-Van Buren	3,960	4,200	3,970	3,730	4,010	3,600	230	190	370	5.8	4.5	9.3
Millinocket-East Millinocket	3,790	3,840	4,170	3,640	3,690	3,920	150	150	250	4.0	3.9	6.0
Norway-Paris	12,170	12,470	12,430	11,930	12,140	12,050	240	330	380	2.0	2.6	3.1
Patten-Island Falls	2,390	2,540	2,370	2,290	2,500	2,240	100	40	130	4.2	1.6	5.5
Rockland	18,900	19,400	18,750	18,610	19,070	18,360	290	330	390	1.5	1.7	2.1
Rumford	8,280	8,210	8,460	7,890	7,870	8,130	390	340	330	4.7	4.1	3.9
Sanford	16,920	16,930	16,080	16,420	16,580	15,690	500	350	390	3.0	2.1	2.4
Sebago Lakes Region	11,790	12,480	11,950	11,580	12,290	11,700	210	190	250	1.8	1.5	2.1
Skowhegan	22,300	22,620	22,420	21,520	21,830	21,480	780	790	940	3.5	3.5	4.2
Southwest Penobscot	10,370	10,170	10,510	10,010	9,830	9,970	360	340	540	3.5	3.3	5.1
Waterville	23,570	23,410	23,820	22,860	22,880	23,190	710	530	630	3.0	2.3	2.6
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,788.4	1,767.5	n/a	1,737.3	1,717.1	n/a	51.1	50.4	n/a	2.9	2.9
Massachusetts	3,149.0	3,130.0	3,109.3	3,060.0	3,036.0	3,025.4	89.0	94.0	83.9	2.8	3.0	2.7
New Hampshire	n/a	607.1	601.8	n/a	592.5	589.2	n/a	14.6	12.6	n/a	2.4	2.1
Rhode Island	527.9	523.8	526.3	514.5	511.0	510.3	13.4	12.8	16.0	2.5	2.4	3.0
Vermont	305.1	300.0	304.6	298.0	294.4	294.6	7.1	5.6	10.0	2.3	1.9	3.3
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,953.9	6,911.0	n/a	6,762.8	6,720.2	n/a	191.1	190.8	n/a	2.7	2.8
UNITED STATES 4/	122,432	121,842	120,744	116,250	115,474	113,898	6,182	6,368	6,845	5.0	5.2	5.7

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area

Note

n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.
Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.

2/ Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.

3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

4/ National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment (Less Partials)

ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Number of Continued-Week Claimants	3,839	3,550	3,854	449	438	437	366	336	388
Insured Unemployment Rate *	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.9	1.1

* Should not be confused with insured unemployment rates as defined in the Employment Security Law.

Selected Characteristics Of Unemployment Insurance Claimants

REGULAR PROGRAM

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY OCCUPATION

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	13.3	14.3	10.6
Clerical and Sales	18.4	18.2	18.3
Service	10.3	8.4	8.9
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry, and Related	1.4	1.3	1.3
Processing	6.9	7.5	8.0
Machine Trades	10.7	10.5	12.1
Benchwork	11.2	11.5	13.0
Structural Work	15.4	16.3	15.9
Miscellaneous	12.4	12.0	11.9

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Total under 40	55.7	55.2	53.0
Under 22	3.9	3.8	4.0
22-24	6.5	6.7	7.3
25-34	32.0	31.1	28.8
35-39	13.3	13.6	12.9
Total 40 and Over	44.3	44.8	47.0
40-44	11.8	11.5	12.2
45-54	15.5	15.8	18.3
55-64	12.6	13.6	13.1
65 and Over	4.4	3.9	3.4

The Bureau of Employment Security is affiliated with the U.S. Employment and Training Administration and is a Federal-State Statistical Program Cooperative Representative of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330
BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

October 1988

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POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
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MAINE JOB SERVICE

"For Qualified Workers Contact Your Local Bureau of Employment Security Job Service Office"

Labor Market Information Services